

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-18. (Cancelled).

19. (New) A two-stage laser pulse energy control device, comprising:
- a two-stage laser which is comprised of an optical oscillation stage in which energy charged in an oscillating capacitor is subjected to pulse compression and applied to a pair of mutually opposed electrodes disposed in an oscillating chamber to excite laser gas in the oscillating chamber so as to output seed light, and an optical amplification stage in which energy charged in an amplifying capacitor is subjected to pulse compression and applied to a pair of mutually opposed electrodes disposed in an amplifying chamber to excite laser gas in the amplifying chamber so as to amplify the seed light injected into the amplifying chamber to output a laser beam;
 - a first monitor module which measures a pulse energy P_{osc} of the seed light; and
 - a second monitor module which measures a pulse energy P_{amp} of the laser beam,
- and
- controlling the pulse energy P_{amp} of the laser beam,
- wherein:
- the optical oscillation stage is controlled according to a measured result of the first monitor module so that the pulse energy P_{osc} of the seed light becomes a prescribed energy E_{s0} or more,
 - the optical amplification stage is controlled according to a measured result of the second monitor module so that the pulse energy P_{amp} of the laser beam becomes a target energy P_{tgt} of the optical amplification stage, and
 - the prescribed energy E_{s0} is set to a lower limit energy value of amplification saturation region which is a threshold value between an amplification saturation region in which the pulse energy P_{amp} of the laser beam saturates without increasing substantially even if the pulse energy P_{osc} of the seed light increases, and a region other than the amplification saturation region in which the pulse energy P_{amp} of the laser beam increases as the pulse energy P_{osc} of the seed light increases.

20. (New) The two-stage laser pulse energy control device according to claim 19, wherein the control in the optical oscillation stage controls a charging voltage V_{osc} applied to the oscillating capacitor, and the control in the optical amplification stage controls a charging voltage V_{amp} applied to the amplifying capacitor.

21. (New) The two-stage laser pulse energy control device according to claim 19, wherein:

the control in the optical oscillation stage controls at least one of a laser gas pressure and a laser gas composition in the oscillating chamber in addition to a control of a charging voltage V_{osc} applied to the oscillating capacitor, and

the control in the optical amplification stage controls at least one of a laser gas pressure and a laser gas composition in the amplifying chamber in addition to a control of a charging voltage V_{amp} applied to the amplifying capacitor.

22. (New) The two-stage laser pulse energy control device according to claim 20, wherein the charging voltage V_{osc} applied to the oscillating capacitor is nearly matched with the charging voltage V_{amp} applied to the amplifying capacitor.

23. (New) The two-stage laser pulse energy control device according to claim 20, wherein a change ratio of the charging voltage V_{osc} applied to the oscillating capacitor is nearly matched with a change ratio of the charging voltage V_{amp} applied to the amplifying capacitor.

24. (New) The two-stage laser pulse energy control device according to claim 20, wherein a change amount of the charging voltage V_{osc} applied to the oscillating capacitor is nearly matched with a change amount of the charging voltage V_{amp} applied to the amplifying capacitor.

25. (New) A two-stage laser pulse energy control device, comprising:

a two-stage laser which is comprised of an optical oscillation stage in which energy charged in an oscillating capacitor is subjected to pulse compression and applied to a pair of mutually opposed electrodes disposed in an oscillating chamber to excite laser gas in the oscillating chamber so as to output seed light, and an optical amplification stage in which energy charged in an amplifying capacitor is subjected to pulse compression and applied to a pair of mutually opposed electrodes disposed in an amplifying chamber to excite laser gas in the amplifying chamber so as to amplify the seed light injected into the amplifying chamber to output a laser beam; and

a monitor module which measures a pulse energy P_{amp} of the laser beam, and controlling the pulse energy P_{amp} of the laser beam,

wherein:

when the pulse energy P_{amp} of the laser beam becomes a target energy P_{tgt} of the optical amplification stage by controlling the optical oscillation stage,

the optical oscillation stage is controlled for every pulse according to a measured result of the monitor module so that the pulse energy P_{amp} of the laser beam becomes the target energy P_{tgt} of the optical amplification stage,

a voltage of the optical amplification stage is controlled to be substantially constant, and

a control region of a pulse energy P_{osc} of the seed light is a region other than an amplification saturation region between the amplification saturation region in which the pulse energy P_{amp} of the laser beam saturates without increasing substantially even if the pulse energy P_{osc} of the seed light increases, and the region other than the amplification saturation region in which the pulse energy P_{amp} of the laser beam increases as the pulse energy P_{osc} of the seed light increases.

26. (New) The two-stage laser pulse energy control device according to claim 25, wherein the optical amplification stage is controlled when the pulse energy P_{amp} of the laser beam does not become the target energy P_{tgt} of the optical amplification stage even if the optical oscillation stage is controlled.

27. (New) The two-stage laser pulse energy control device according to claim 25, wherein the control in the optical oscillation stage controls a charging voltage V_{osc} applied to the oscillating capacitor.
28. (New) The two-stage laser pulse energy control device according to claim 25, wherein the control in the optical oscillation stage controls at least one of laser gas pressure and laser gas composition in the oscillating chamber in addition to a control of a charging voltage V_{osc} applied to the oscillating capacitor.
29. (New) The two-stage laser pulse energy control device according to claim 26, wherein:
the control in the optical oscillation stage controls a charging voltage V_{osc} applied to the oscillating capacitor, and
the control in the optical amplification stage controls a charging voltage V_{amp} applied to the amplifying capacitor.
30. (New) The two-stage laser pulse energy control device according to claim 26, wherein:
the control in the optical oscillation stage controls at least one of laser gas pressure and laser gas composition in the oscillating chamber in addition to a control of a charging voltage V_{osc} applied to the oscillating capacitor, and
the control in the optical amplification stage controls at least one of laser gas pressure and laser gas composition in the amplifying chamber in addition to a control of a charging voltage V_{amp} applied to the amplifying capacitor.
31. (New) A two-stage laser system, comprising the two-stage laser pulse energy control device according to claim 19, and an exposure device which exposes an object of light exposure using a laser beam.

32. (New) The two-stage laser system according to claim 31, wherein the two-stage laser is any of a KrF laser, an ArF laser, and a molecular fluorine laser.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald T. Shekleton".

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